

*Alberta*

2015 FALL NEWSLETTER

# BOWHUNTERS

ASSOCIATION



Batman | Stealth Elk | Bowhunter Champion



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by  
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Ted Hanson arrowed this spectacular bull moose during peak rut.

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**Bowhunter Champion**

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# EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall



2015 Fall Edition

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

Editor & Graphic Designer: Gord Nuttall

## SUBMISSIONS

ABA Newsletter welcomes input, photos and stories from its subscribers (ABA Members). For feature articles, please send one thousand words of your adventure along with three (3) high resolution digital photographs to email listed here. Your story (or photo) will be placed in the publishing queue. Send the highest resolution possible for brag board pictures.

## JOIN MEMBERSHIP

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\*\*Correction from 2015 spring issue:

Page 16 - footnote at the bottom led readers to believe that Trevor Yurchak won the ABA annual moose award, but in fact both him and Lori Keeler (shown on page 17 of that issue) won. Lori was the official winner at the banquet, however Trevor's digital entry wasn't received by our game chair because of the large file size of the picture even though he submitted on time. Just a reminder to follow up with Ryk to ensure he received your entry, especially for those 'larger' criters.

\*\* Correction from 2015 summer issue:

All pages are non-existent due to various factors, apologies if you were checking your mailbox everyday.

I bowhunted many days this fall after work and I've lost a few arrows shooting some small game but haven't let an arrow fly from my Bear Arena 34 at a big game animal yet. My dad help me get to within 16 metres of a squeaker Pope & Young mule deer for my draw, but I decided to pass. The early season was a bust so I'm waiting for the rut to kick in to see the hard-horned mule deer bucks again. They sure do disappear in October, although I did pass on that same buck again at 8 metres at first light in late October. I've been practicing with my cold weather clothes on and feeling like this new bow is a natural extension of my arm now. My old bow feels like my buddy Gary always described it, "archaic."

The ABA bowhunter challenge was a huge success, see details on page 14. A 3D shoot I'll be sure not to miss next year - I want that buckle!

I've met a ton of great folks at ABA functions, shoots and various other archery and outdoor events in Alberta. I've always received positive feedback about the newsletter and that, "I'm going to write a story". Well, the time has come to ante up. I know of a dozen folks who have mentioned to me they have story to tell - please make the time to do so and send it to me. Don't forget the photographs. I have ZERO member's stories for the 2016 issues and fall is when I usually collect the most, for obvious reasons. The member's stories and success photos are what we all enjoy the most. Those and how to technical information that can save a day's drive during bow season like "Tying a D loop in the field" found on page 12 of this issue.

*Gord Nuttall*



# BATMAN

by Wacey Arthur

# AND ROBIN



It started in December 2013 when I picked up the sheds from a 3.5 year old four point whitetail buck. At the time it was just another set of sheds and didn't think much of it at not know if that particular buck would fall to a pack of coyotes over winter. Spring 2014 brought excitement of what the new summer of antler growing would bring. I was excited to get trail cameras out scouting for the deer I called batman because he only came out at night. I fell short on

anchoring the old whitetail for the previous two years because of his nocturnal pattern. By the end of July I had started getting pictures of batman and his sidekick (Robin), the four point I had collected the sheds from. By September, batman was nocturnal perhaps because of myself trying to move in on his travel pattern and hang a stand. Robin was scarce as well so I was back to square one on pattering deer not what I wanted to do on the opener.



I had moved a couple stands into the areas where I thought the old deer was bedding and would hike into my stand at 4:30 am to try and get ahead of the deer but yet again the old boy had given me the slip it seemed like he was always one step ahead and he did not tolerate human intrusion whatsoever. At this point I weighed my odds on the deer I pursued for so many years but decided he was un-killable for the simple reason that he never made any mistakes. With that being my final decision on batman I decided to shift my focus onto Robin, the four point as I was starting to get regular pictures him.



Over October I had moved two stands that produced 60 yard full draw opportunities. I didn't shoot because I don't like shooting whitetails over 30 yards. They are just too jumpy and I did not want to risk wounding that deer. As October wound down I found myself scratching my head as I moved stands daily trying to hone in on my target. However, deer movement during the pre-rut was in full swing and he was busy making scrapes and touring abroad. I finally decided to ride the quad to do some scouting through an area where I knew does bedded. I like to use the quad to scout to minimize human scent. Mature bucks forgive quads driving around a lot more than people walking around. I found they will totally vacate the area if there is human scent on the ground, rubber tires prevent this. As I drove down the narrow grown-over cut line I noted scrape after scrape and I knew that Robin had to be one of the deer coming in on the downwind side of the bedded does scent checking and marking territory. I went back down to the main line, pulled my set off a beaver dam edge I had been sitting and burned back up to the very last scrape on the line. I decided to leave my quad running trying to act like I was just doing some farm work and not hanging a set.

There wasn't much for trees to pick from but there was one big old bare poplar without background cover over top of the big scrape. I figured that was my best bet I wouldn't normally hang a set like that in

a bare tree especially for mature whitetails but it was the only tree I had on the northwest side so I hung my stand 15 pegs high just to stay out of the line of sight. I got back to my truck and as I drove home that evening I knew if I was going to kill that deer it would be tomorrow morning as he followed those does back to bed. The next morning I woke up rolled over and looked at my phone. It was November 1st and all the thoughts starting racing through my head it was the rifle opener and where I hunt the mentality of "it's brown, it's down" is common with the rifle crowd. I parked my truck, dressed and turned on my head lamp on and set off into the darkness with about two hours until sunrise. I wanted to beat them to their bedding area before sun up. As I was sitting in my stand and legal light was slowly appearing, I heard distant gun shots and all I thought was, 'someone nailed Robin, or worse, Batman. He's given me a few grey hairs over the past three years. It was around 9 a.m. and I witness a group of does coming through the trees so I gave a few tending grunts on my deer call. The does moved past me and bedded within eyesight on the upwind side. Moments later, like he read my mind from the night before, Robin was working his way towards me blowing out every scrape along the way. It was only a matter of time before he got to the last scrape where my set was hung at ten yards. As he walked towards me I drew my bow and held perfectly still until he turned sideways, closed his eyes to rub that last spruce and then I settled my top pin and touched the release. He ran 20 yards and stood there for a few moments and then tipped over. I hung my bow up on the hanger and sat down, closed my eyes and took a good deep. As I sat there I counted the set moves I had made and the time spent since spring time trying to zero in on the deer. As I walked up to him and put my hands on his dark antlers it all started to sink in. I phoned a good friend of mine, Scott Carstairs and he came out and gave me a hand to get him out of the bush. I can honestly say that I have never worked so hard to kill a deer and it was a real honour to play the game with such a nice mature deer. I hope to have many more seasons chasing mature deer and having fun.





# ELK STEALTH

by Mike Ukrainetz



I have always loved to hunt elk, ever since I was introduced to it by my Dad where we hunted the famed Canmore, Alberta bow only zone, better known for its bighorn sheep hunts than its elk hunting. I began hunting rutting elk in 1981 there when I was just 14 years old. Wow, was it some awesome elk hunting! Big, bugling bulls that came right out of Banff National Park. The only problem was, we didn't know how to call them other than with some tin whistles we messed around with a bit. We just stumbled around the woods trying to shoot one, total blast though. I was part of a team effort kill on a 4 point bull that year and I was hooked for life. After high school in 1985 I spent 2 1/2 months hunting elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer and I killed a giant elk, at least a giant in Alberta with a bow, a 331 gross score bull in November. Ever since then I have been trying to kill another Pope and Young class bull but the bowhunting in Canmore and all over the mountains in Alberta deteriorated because of housing development, wolves and fire suppression.

I started my own outfitting business, Mike's Outfitting Ltd. in 1992 guiding bears, mule deer, moose and of course, elk. I quickly learned that entrepreneurs have limited time to hunt elk for themselves. I did manage to kill five other bulls, including one that grossed 265 and netted 255 but nothing to make



Pope and Young. Fast forward to 2012 after many successful elk hunts for my clients I was finally getting some time to hunt elk for myself. I got out about ten days in 2012, called in a dozen different rag-horn bulls within bow range and then finally got a 45 yard whack at a decent 6 point on September 29 in the general rifle season as the rut was winding down. Wasn't sure if he would make it and he didn't: 265 gross, 255 net again. Happy and bummed all in one.

In 2014 between guiding hunters I got a couple days to hunt early in September and I choose to go into a favorite area of mine, no secret honey hole or anything, just a good spot that I like to hunt. I go to the same area with my hunters fairly often but not so often that I push the elk out. If I have any secret to hunting the elk it is that I go ninja style as much as possible, full stealth mode. This means a face mask or face paint on any exposed skin, camo gloves and leafy wear jacket with running shoes on my feet. I also wear wool socks so the water can run in my shoes and back out again yet keep them warm. Small fanny pack with just a rain coat, water bottle, a snack, matches, headlamp, elk license and a knife. Then I bugle just enough to get a bull to respond and get him located, then I sneak in close, hopefully close enough to get a look at the bull. The bush is very thick so sometimes you can't see the bull, even at less than 50 yards or I'll spot a cow and can't get any closer so I will let out a cow call or two and see how the bull responds. Some bulls will light right up from just a cow call and come right in, others just shut up and sneak off, especially in the early part of the season. Some take a bugle to really get them going, others have to be dogged for miles to get them to turn and fight. If I accidentally make some noise while sneaking in then I will make a cow call to get the bull to hopefully think I'm a cow, no threat.

Anyway, on this fateful hunt it was a nice calm morning and I could hear three different bulls bugling off and on, more off than on. I snuck in on the closest bull and he was by himself, a small 5 pointer, I got right into 40 yards, he never had a clue I was there and I backed out. The next closest bull didn't sound very big, only a few notes and a nice musical sound to it. Not usually what I find to be a big bull so I left him alone and pressed on to the furthest away bugle. As I got closer he sounded better and bet-

ter, not many notes but deep and raspy. I tiptoed in closer to where I thought he was hanging out. It can be very difficult to pinpoint where a bull is especially in an echoing river valley but I thought I was getting close. One misstep and I broke a branch, "dammit", I cursed myself. So I let out a couple of cow chirps and carefully peeked over the little ridge in front of me. My jaw hit the dirt when I saw the beast of an elk, way bigger than what I hoped he would be! It was a small but wide open clearing, good daylight and I could see his whole body and most importantly his gigantic rack. I didn't know his score and didn't care, he looked huge! He was also staring right at me. Not good.



My heart went into overdrive but I was certain he couldn't see me well, at least I prayed that he couldn't, I was sure he didn't know I was a person. It was dark and brushy where I was standing, back lit by the rising sun, he was out in the open clearing. I scrambled to ever so slowly get my range finder binoculars up to my eyes, my face mask got caught on the strap, my glasses fogged up and I started to panic a bit. "Calm down, he doesn't have a clue", I tried to tell myself but so many times on the bigger bulls they suddenly figure out something is wrong, quickly turn and leave. I got a range, 70 yds. Not great but not impossible. As everyone says, I practice a lot at that distance, he was quartering towards me anyway, no shot. There was also a few big scattered spruce trees around him and he walked in behind one of them as I got my face mask straightened out, glasses cleared off, release on my string, muscles relaxed and heart rate slowed down a bit.



Then fortune smiled on me as a cow elk chirped off to the side and behind me. The big bull walked out from behind the tree and let off an incredible, growly bugle, just a 2 note one but with that beautiful, deep, raspy sound. I was in awe, this I what it is all about, absolutely incredible! He was still quartering towards me but then he cut down the distance. I got a final reading at 67 yds, he took a few more steps angling towards me and then turned broadside. I guessed 65 and drew back, he was focused on the cow sound and I let fly. The arrow had a loud smack to it, right in the chest area. He bolted away from me and I could see about 12 inches of arrow sticking out, mid body top to bottom. As he took off, he quickly slowed, turned broadside and stood still about 120 yards away, half covered by bushes. I whipped up my binos but could not see exactly where the hit was, just that it seemed to be up front, maybe too far forward. I let out a few cow calls to hopefully keep him in place and he stood for a maybe a minute then slowly disappeared into the trees. Not good."I will leave him be for at least an hour then sneak in", I thought.

I stood in the same spot for an hour, not daring to make any noise, then I crept in to where I last saw him standing. Tons of blood! Awesome. I slowly followed the trail. "Assume he is alive though", I cautioned myself. 20 yds, 50, 100. All of a sudden he stood up out of the jungle like undergrowth. I quickly guessed the distance at 45 yds and shot my 2nd arrow. It hit right behind the shoulder but a bit high. He bolted sideways about 30 yds and I nocked another arrow, bobbed up and down searching for an open-

ing through all the branches and shot again, perfect hit. He stood trembling and then his legs gave out and he crumpled to the ground. I was in shock, not whooping or hollering with this one.

I slowly approached the downed bull and I truly could not believe that I got him. It was like walking up on someone else's big trophy elk. I was speechless and didn't dare think how much he might score and how old he was. I must have just stood and stared at him for over 5 minutes just saying the same words over and over, ones I can't repeat here. I was absolutely overflowing with appreciation for what a giant bull he was, just a gigantic body too. I had not made a perfect shot or done anything special in my hunting method so I certainly wasn't giving myself too much praise, I was just being very thankful that I had been the one to find him before he had gathered up all his cows and had become practically unkillable, at least with a bow. Maybe even with a gun unless he was caught standing out in a farm field in November. I couldn't believe it and I was thrilled.

The six 100 lbs pack trips out and over one and a half days was almost a whole other story but me and my guide Josh Harb got it done. My favorite load in dying daylight the next day was the last one with the 60 pound cape and the 32 pound antlers. It was two of the toughest and best hours of my hunting career! The bull officially gross scored 345 2/8 and netted 332 7/8 with 10 1/2 inch bases and 19 inch eye guards.







# NEWS



## PRESIDENTS Report

Brent Watson

Bowhunting seasons are well under way and there has been some great critters taken. Have a look at our bragboard in this issue and hopefully you can see them in person at the next banquet. Some real monsters!! Moose camp 2015 for me is over. Came in a day early as rain sent us packing. I was looking for a good bull moose with the longbow. Doug also got drawn and was going to take the first one he got a chance at lol but I was going to be more selective. Doug said we would work to get a big bull for me first and then work on his - it was frustrating in a sense that we didn't get the opportunities we expected based on past history of the Honey Hole and Doug sacrificed a great deal of his own hunting time in trying to get me a big bull. Thanks Doug!!

Overall, it was a great trip. Great friends and great camp setup. In 20 days I seen/heard approximately a dozen different bulls. One good one we played with on four different occasions but he wasn't very vocal, kind of cautious when he did get close several times. Seen him once at 100 yards. Of the dozen bulls could have shot 8 with a rifle. Passed one average bull twice - once at 3 and again at 8 yards, had another at 8 yards facing us and may have sent an arrow if he was broadside, had another small bull with a cow at 30 yards. Nothing more exciting than a bull moose grunting, thrashing and wanting to stomp you into the ground!! Seen six cows and one calf (seen one other calf track). Heard wolves twice (a week apart) in the Honey Hole, seen fresh tracks in several other spots we hunted. Friend seen 6 on the road

where he was working not far from us - likely same bunch we heard. Seen one big sow grizzly with 3 yearlings. In same 1.5m stretch we seen fresh tracks of another sow with a single yearling and a sow with a young cub. Seen 4 different lone grizzly tracks in the 15m stretch of country we hunted - one was on top of our tracks one morning. An operator ran another one off a lease 1/4m from camp one afternoon. We seen 2 black bears and lots of coyotes/sign/howlings. FW also mentioned they have been getting lots of cougar reports. "Predation" reason given for the results of a Feb 2014 aerial survey showing overall moose numbers down and calf numbers way down. The country has been opened up an incredible amount with oil/gas, logging. With that comes great roadway/pipeline networks for easy predator travel routes and great habitat for white-tail deer which flourished until we had some bad winters. Lots of deer means lots of easy food for predators but once their numbers drop, predators turn to other things. In comparison, friend was hunting in a neighboring WMU and grunted in a small bull with his bow Sept 21. His dad and uncle had the rut draw and were rifle hunting. They were out for 2 weeks and had moose grunting/bawling every day, seen lots of bulls, cows and calves. Got one 40" bull and his dad is holding out for a good one as they have meat. Heard wolves howl one night on the moose guts of the bow kill. Other than that, they heard no more, seen no wolf tracks, no bear tracks/scat of any kind. That used to be the Honey Hole. Kind of shows what the problem is. AND this area is not far

from where there is and has been wolf management to ensure the survival of the threatened caribou. Other species benefit as well.

Walked just over 100 km, lost 6 lbs, only used quad one afternoon to check an old trail, 2018km on truck - just going to and from GP couple of times and from spot to spot from camp. Seen three other hunters - all on the road when we were going from spot to spot. One group of native hunters who were camped south of us a ways and watched them process a cow and bull they took. Seen 2 other gut piles on the edges of a couple of roads. Seen NOBODY off a road anywhere. Seen lots of ruffed grouse which was nice - took a few and "yummy" as always. Did see some spruce grouse but let them go. Just not many around anymore but no spruce trees left either. Hoping to get out for a few day trips - cows should be coming out of heat and the bulls moving more searching for the last hot ones. Should come to calls good. Drying and sorting gear ready for the next trip!!

Hope everyone did well in their draws -- I have had a couple of calls about hunters having some surprises when the results come back. There are no conspiracies, no plots. Make sure you check your draw priorities and history on "Alberta Relm" ([albertarelm.com](http://albertarelm.com)) before you put the draws in. Use the previous year's draw summary (available on "My Wild Alberta" - [mywildalberta.com](http://mywildalberta.com)) to give you an idea of what your chances will be. The 2015 draw summaries are also now available and you can compare the two and see where you





were sitting in the various draws, what priority you were, what priorities got drawn, the percentages, the available tags, the number of applicants at each priority level and total applicants. If you are wondering why a certain number of tags are made available contact your local F&W biologist - complete list available on My Wild Alberta. Using this information you can make a reasonably accurate plan as to what you would like to draw for and when.

As indicated in my past report, we have been waiting to see when the next AGMAG meeting will be held and thus far we have heard nothing from the people in "Alberta Environment and Parks" - which used to be Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Department (AESRD). I would think with the fall hunting season now here that it would be pointless having a meeting while the majority of stakeholders are unavailable. Am thinking the next meeting will be in at our regular time frame of early December.

At the last AGMAG meeting in December 2014, the stakeholders and government were advised that we will be involved in a complete allocation review sometime in the near future - the review will look at what everyone gets now and should get going forward. Will look at residents, non-resident Canadian and non-resident alien shares. There are some very interesting statistics on pages 26/27 in the current hunting regulations and this info comes from My Wild Alberta. One chart shows the Alberta Special License Draws since 2004/2005 and it has the number of tags available fairly static over that 10 year period at app 80000 but the number of applicants rising sharply from app 220000 to just under 400000. Is definitely reflected in your odds to get drawn in a lot of cases. Bowhunter numbers are 18% of the 109000 big game hunters.

There has been a great deal of discussion, debate and meetings over the past couple of years in regards to the state of our bighorn sheep population, harvest goals, harvest

effect, etc and the measures that government biologists feel need to be taken to address their concerns (will go from a 4/5 to full curl requirement in the area south of the Brazeau River and shortening the sheep season to Oct 22 in Sheep Management zone #1 (WMU 400, 302). The draft Bighorn Sheep Management Plan review was released by AEP in late June and is available by contacting myself

you join online, you get an immediate email confirmation and can print off your own membership card. Your ABA membership number stays with you forever. Your number and date of expiry is on the mailing label of your newsletter or you can contact John (John@albertabowhunters.com) or Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com) to have either checked. If you are a new member, John will email you



or is on the AEP website at <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-management/bighorn-sheep-management.aspx>. We have sent this to our ABA Sheep Committee and they are having a look at it. Other stakeholders are doing the same. Indications have been that there will be meetings in the near future and we will be attending. Get any thoughts and comments to our Sheep Committee chairman Terry Brew (Terry@albertabowhunters.com). The deadline for public submissions as per the AEP website is September 15.

John (our membership chairman) and Lance have reworked our membership stuff so that when

your number when he processes your membership and you just fill it in on your membership card. Is a very simple and quick way to renew and saves the ABA a great deal of \$\$ plus a lot of volunteer time.

The theme for next year's banquet (March 26th at the Nisku Inn) will be "Bears" and there has been a great deal of interest generated since the idea was announced in a mass email a while back. A member (Ric Fedyna), who also happens to be a wildlife artist, called and generously donated a large 4'x4' acrylic on canvas black bear painting. It looks awesome! We will be doing a card raffle on this



painting and to create an incentive for people to bring "bear" items to display we will offer up free cards for the draw - 3 free cards if you bring a life size or half mount bear, 2 cards if you bring a shoulder mount or rug, 1 card for tanned hides or skulls. No limits to how many you can bring. We have our large free standing display and hope to fill it up! Contact Cole O'Neill (Cole@albertabowhunters.com) if you would like to bring something - once things get closer we will be confirming things.

Speaking of bears, there have been some real dandies taken this spring. Friend Chester Dodgson took a bear late in April that was officially scored at 22 3/16 -- live weight on official grain elevator scales was 572#s!! If his taxidermist can do his magic on time Chester will have his life size bear at the banquet!! Worth attending just to see this monster. We have quite a few first time bowhunters and youngsters get great bears as well.

Kevin Moore of Onoway was the lucky winner of our cougar hunt raffle with Kelly Morton and we will be having another one in late 2015 or early 2016 for the 2016/17 cougar hunting season. Discussion generated from the AGM will see us having a firm start date for selling tickets with that being communicated well in advance (firstly in the newsletter (in this issue) and then in our mass emails, Facebook page, website), doing online sales only which will then give us a time stamp for orders in case we have a fast sellout again. This will also give everyone the same chance to get a ticket. Watch for the news in your next newsletter!!!

The new format for the ABA Bowhunter Challenge has generated a great deal of interest and excitement. The shoot for this year was awarded to the Whitecourt club (following a request for affiliated clubs to send an application/proposal in, a detailed review of those proposals, a vote within the 3D Committee) and took place Aug 15/16. The Whitecourt club was very generous and donated the buckle given to the winner - it is an awesome looking buckle!! This new format really reflects what the ABA is - a "bowhunting" organization and should fill a niche for the bowhunter using their bowhunting equipment in realistic bowhunting situations. This completely different format incorporates bowhunting practice, recreation (having FUN) along with some good natured competition. Hats off to the Whitecourt club, our 3D Chairman Sean O'Neill (Sean@albertabowhunters.com), our ABA 3D Committee (Allen, Chris, Len, Peter, Kris, Leonard, Jesse), the incredible support from a long list of sponsors, to the shooters who attended and made it an awesome event and to Mother Nature for cooperating. It will only get bigger and better.

If anyone knows of a shoot happening in your area, your local club shoots etc, send the information and/or poster to Lance (Lance@albertabowhunters.com) and he will put it up on our website.

We had our ABA display at Cabelas Aug 22/23 for their Fall Great Outdoors Event. Gord was the go to guy for us and we had some people volunteer and

also partnered with the Wild Elk Federation - gives them some exposure and helps with getting volunteers. Is a great way to showcase the associations and spread the word. Thanks to all who were able to help out - greatly appreciated!

Many of us use trail cameras as a scouting tool and just a reminder that those cameras that send pictures via cellular signals to your computer or cell phone are NOT allowed in either the P&Y or ABA Fair Chase rules. Neither are bow mounted rangefinders. They are not illegal in the hunting regulations; just not eligible for entry as they have been deemed to give the hunter an unfair advantage over their quarry. We have updated our ABA Game Awards entry form so that these are mentioned specifically so people are aware of their ineligibility if used in harvesting critters and we have put that info in a text box in the newsletter.

When you send Ryk your game awards entry forms, make sure you follow up with him by phone or email to make sure he has actually gotten your entries. We have had some cases where the email file with accompanying pictures was so big it did not make it. Same with some entries faxed in. The BEST way to send him your entries is to scan and email the "completed" entry form then follow up with a phone call or separate email.

Your ABA newsletter continues to be a top notch product and a very valuable communication tool. We disseminate lots of information through it but equally as valuable, are the stories and pictures of our membership successes. With another hunting season upon us, I am sure there will be some great bowhunts by the ABA membership (local and abroad) - please consider taking a few minutes and putting pen to paper and sending Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) your story/pictures. These stories keep your newsletter the great product it has become.



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# ANCHOR POINTS

Mark Twang



If you have any questions or would like to suggest a future archery topic please email: [MarkTwang@canadianhuntingociety.com](mailto:MarkTwang@canadianhuntingociety.com)

## *Replacing D loop in the field*

**Introduction:** I am sure we have all been there, we spend lots of time in pre-season getting bow sighted in and tuned as we do this we end up with wear on our d-loop. Then we wonder whether we should change it and have to re-sight and reset the bow again, or should we leave it alone as it will get us through the season. What I plan to do in this article is show you how to change the D-Loop consistently so that it will have least amount of impact on sight and tuning.

### **Tools/Material:**

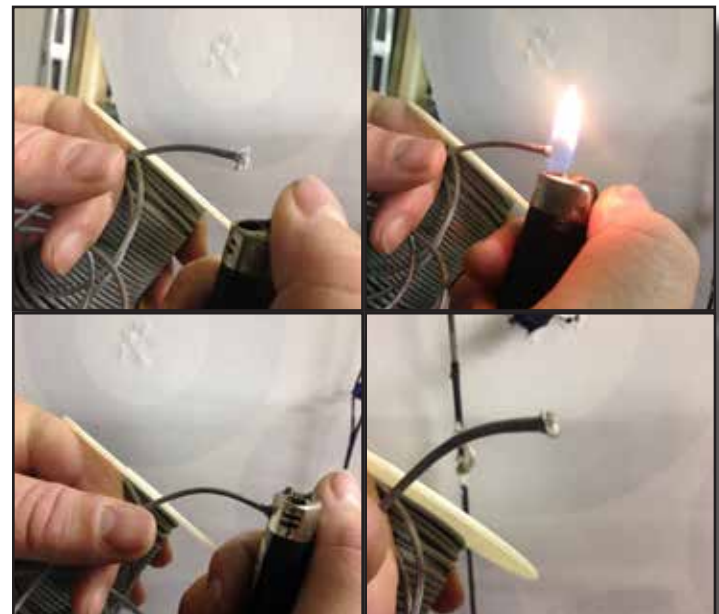
- D-Loop measuring tool
- Measures length of D-Loop and to assist with cutting the right length.
- D-Loop pliers (needle nose pliers will work)
- D-Loop string material
- Lighter

When tying the d-loop I ensure that the loop comes out of knots on opposite sides of string to maintain a consistent pull on the string. Also there is a right-handed and left handed configuration. For a right handed setup (which is what will be illustrated) the loop comes from top left to bottom right of string which orientates the loop to how a right handed person naturally holds the release on a slight angle into their cheek. Left handers are the opposite.

**Step 1:** Mark and Measure the D-loop, note its orientation and alignment to the peep. Now for a quick note about left handed and right handed D-loops. This D-loop is in right handed configuration. When marking the D-loop I use correction fluid, (NOT A SHARPY AS IT IS CORROSIVE), as it rubs off easily and is non corrosive. In this case the loop is 3/8" I noted the orientation relative to the peep as well.



**Step 2:** Prepare one end of the new D-Loop: I take the loose end of the D-Loop Material off of the spool and burn and frizz and burn the end. I frizz it so it will make a ball then light it on fire and once frizz is burned I smother the burn with metal side of lighter to end up with a mushroom end.





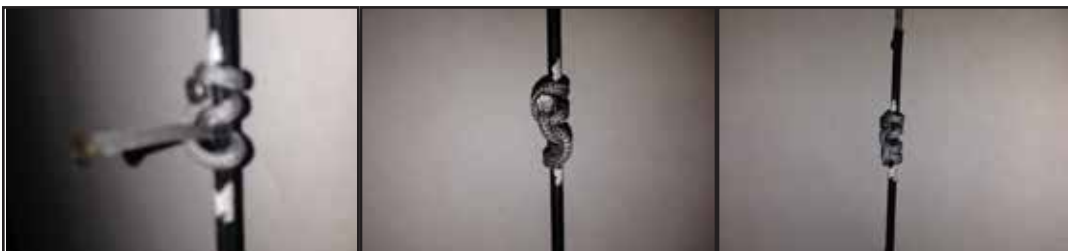
**Step 3:** Measure and Cut D-Loop, To calculate needed length measure from back of burned mushroom or use measuring tool and here is the calculation length of d-loop  $x2 + 2 \frac{7}{8}$  so we take  $\frac{3}{8} x2 + 2 \frac{7}{8} = 3 \frac{5}{8}$ " so we cut then Frizz and Burn. I repeat this 2x more so I have pre-cur D-loops for future use. This is really handy in hunting camp or a tournament!



**Step 4:** Tying Top Knot D-Loop on String: I tie the top first and make sure the string comes around the right side. In illustration I show a very easy way to remember how to tie the top knot and gives you pattern for the bottom knot (on opposite side of string) First I double the loop material and then put it around string and then adjust so top mushroom is tight to string and loop and the bottom tag end is extended to make second knot.



**Step 5:** Tying second knot. This will be on opposite side and you can use the top knot as a pattern!



**Step 6:** Forming the loop: You may need to use a smooth awl to start the loop forming and then using d-loop pliers is very helpful. Once D-loop is formed I like to insert nock from arrow and do final forming of D-loop with it and it should be completely finished between your marks!



**Step 7:** Test and ensure that point of impact is the same. Small adjustments may need to be made but this method I have found to be very consistent.

### About Mark Twang

Mark Twang is an average Alberta Bowhunters Association Archer, with 20+ years of archery experience and has decided to share some of the archery technical information he has gathered over the years as a bow hunter, archery tech, competitor and coach.



# ABA BOWHUNTER CHALLENGE

The Whitecourt club did an amazing job of hosting the 1st annual ABA bowhunter challenge and the courses were in tip top shape. Many of their members said the best shape ever, so there was a lot of pride taken in this shoot and it showed! We had a great committee and we have solid direction where to go with this to improve it. It was great that Whitecourt, Drayton and Parkland embraced the format. We received a lot of feedback both positive and negative that will make things better in the future. It was an exciting finish that saw Chris Drewes capturing the 2015 championship buckle edging out 3D director Sean O'neil by a few millimeters. The long list of sponsors all received the photo below as a token thank your of their support. A great time was had by all.



Some feedback:

*The shoot I found to be organized and put together well. It can be time consuming and unappreciated by a few who like to grumble about anything and everything. The targets were placed well and presented admirable shots. I wished there was a little more obstructed shooting through standing trees or obstacles that were 18" to 24" apart. Even using carpet strung up with rectangular cut outs mimicking Blind Shoots would make it feel realistic and challenging. Kneeling and shooting for a different stance was exceptional. Putting a chair or stool out and making people shoot for a sitting position*

*would change the form and dynamics of the shot. Tree Stands are another option. Put them a foot off the ground and have archers sit on the seats or even standing, shooting from these position. Having a tree in behind you adds another change in your form. The animal is directly in front so a right or left handed shot can complete the shot. Not many archers practice this form. With some of the bears, placement of poly barrels in front of them with logs obstructing the actual distant would challenge the yardage calculations. Overall, I would have to give the shoot a 10 out of 10.*





# **2ND ANNUAL COUGAR HUNT RAFFLE**

**Tickets \$100 - only 100 printed!**

**LICENSE # 417153  
Draw March 26, 2016  
ABA Banquet @ Nisku Inn, Nisku AB**

**Tickets available online at the ABA online store [www.bowhunters.ca](http://www.bowhunters.ca) starting 12:00pm (noon) Dec 10, 2015. Cash or cheque sales available from raffle chair person Brent Watson ([brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:brent@albertabowhunters.com) - cell 780-978-1195. 10238-110 Ave., Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1S7). Sales will be time stamped once the transaction is completed online/cash or cheque in hand, to ensure first come first served.**

## **Conditions:**

**Guide/outfitter is Kelly Morton of Mayerthorpe, AB. Hunt value is \$6000.**

**Open to Alberta residents only. Must be 18 or older to purchase tickets.  
Hunter can use any legal hunting equipment as outlined in the current Alberta Hunting Regulations.**

**Responsibility of raffle winner - transportation to and from main hunt rendezvous location (be determined at time of hunt), tips, Alberta resident cougar license.**

**Exact hunt dates based on open availability (starting first week Dec 2016), dependent on weather conditions and hunt location, opening/closing of zones. Hunter should be prepared for call on short notice. Guaranteed an opportunity at a mature tom.**





**Have something to brag about?**

Then send a high resolution photograph of your memorable accomplishment to: [gord@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:gord@albertabowhunters.com)

# BRAG



09847007348  
DUSTIN BROWN  
POLAROID032



09847007348  
SCOTT CLARK  
POLAROID032



09847007348  
THAREN SOROKA  
POLAROID032



09847007348  
STEVE MACKENZIE  
POLAROID032





# BOARD



DOUG ERICKSON



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## Hub International Phoenix Insurance Brokers

Drayton Valley Office - Box 5296, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1R4

Phone: (780) 542-3968 / 1-877-542-3968 \* Fax (780) 542-7775

[www.hubinternational.com](http://www.hubinternational.com)

## **INSURANCE: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU AS AN ABA MEMBER?**

Over the past several years there has been significant discussions around club memberships and what are people getting for their money. We thought it was a good idea to clarify exactly what both people and affiliated clubs are getting for being a part of the Alberta Bowhunters Association (ABA) as it is significant.

### **AFFILIATED CLUBS:**

**COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY \$5,000,000  
DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY \$1,000,000**

By your Archery Club being affiliated with the ABA – Insurance coverage is automatically extended when your organization is doing any of the following:

- Educational teaching, demonstrations, seminars, trade shows, mentoring or other training as it relates to archery, bow hunting or promotion of the ABA / your Club.
- Shooting competitions, demonstrations or events.
- Premises liability at your range, but ONLY while club sanctioned event or activity is happening.
- Personal Liability of your clubs Directors & Officers while they are within the performance of their duties for the club.

***PLEASE NOTE that there is No liability coverage extended when premises / range is not in official use.*** This is the only significant restriction to the above coverage with respects to any premises your Club may rent, lease or own. The liability only extends to it while there is Club activities taking place.

IF your club rents, leases or owns a Range or Premises that they are (i) in control of 24/7 or (ii) are held responsible for under signed agreement (lease or rental contract) there is a significant uninsured exposure. Should something happen or someone be injured at such location your club can still held liable in court even if the injured person(s) was trespassing. Our office has made a coverage extension available to all ABA Affiliated Clubs that the full \$5,000,000 of liability protection can be extended to their premises for a flat \$500 premium per year. For more information on this extension simply contact Kathy in our office at 1-877-542-3968 or email her at [kathy.copeland@hubinternational.com](mailto:kathy.copeland@hubinternational.com) .

### **INDIVIDUAL CLUB / ABA MEMBERS:**

**PERSONAL EXCESS LIABILITY \$5,000,000**

As a member Personal Liability coverage is extended to you as an individual should legal action ever incur against you personally for any of the activities listed above which includes such things as teaching, demonstrating or mentoring achery and/or bow hunting. Should you already have coverage through your home insurance for personal liability – the coverage provided here would be in excess thus giving you additional coverage should a claim ever arise.







**Hub International Phoenix Insurance Brokers**  
 Drayton Valley Office - Box 5296, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1R4  
 Phone: (780) 542-3968 / 1-877-542-3968 \* Fax (780) 542-7775  
[www.hubinternational.com](http://www.hubinternational.com)

## INSURANCE COVERAGE OVERVIEW

# ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

**COVERAGE (January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 – 2016 Policy Term)**

**OPERATIONS - ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:**

- PROMOTION, EDUCATION, DEMONSTRATIONS
- SEMINARS, CONVENTIONS & TRAINING
- SESSIONS TO PROMOTION OF ABA ORGANIZATION.
- SHOOTING DEMONSTRATIONS, COMPETITIONS & EVENTS.
- HUNTING MENTORSHIP & BOWHUNTERS IN THE FIELD.

**COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY**

**LIMITS**

Commercial General Liability	\$5,000,000
Products & Completed Operations Liability	5,000,000
Personal Injury & Advertising Liability	5,000,000
Host Liquor Liability	5,000,000
Non-Owned Automobile Liability	5,000,000
Physical Damage to Rented Automobiles (\$1,000 deductible)	50,000
Tenants Legal Liability	5,000,000
Employee Benefits Errors & Omissions	5,000,000
Voluntary Medical Payments	25,000
Blanket Contractual Liability	Included
Employees & Volunteers as Additional Named Insureds	Included
Watercraft Liability (Max 12 Meters in Length)	Included
Cross Liability	Included
Per Occurrence Deductible	1,000

**DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY**

Covering ABA Board & Affiliated Clubs Executives	\$1,000,000
Deductible	1,000



# ABA GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

Small Game, Big Game, Master, and Grandmaster ABA bowhunter Awards (no time limit to earn), as well as the Annual Big Game Awards program have been established for ABA members only. Applications for these awards will be accepted only if the bowhunter is an ABA member at the time the game entered is taken. Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license. All animals entered must be taken under "The P&Y Rules Of Fair Chase" (www.pope-young.org) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.) (lighted nocks (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). Entries must be received by March 1 of the following year – NO exceptions!!

## SMALL GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take 1 species from 5 of the following 6 categories:

### Rodent

Jack Rabbit  
Snowshoe Hare  
Cottontail Rabbit  
Woodchuck  
Gopher  
Porcupine  
Beaver  
Red Squirrel

### Varmint

Crow  
Magpie  
Pigeon  
Starling  
Skunk  
Free ranging wild  
boar  
Raven (private land)

### Carnivore

Wolf  
Coyote  
Badger  
Fox  
Raccoon

### Game Bird

Hungarian  
Partridge  
Grouse  
Ptarmigan  
Merriam's Turkey  
Pheasant

### Migratory

Ducks  
Coots  
Common Snipe  
(Wilson's)  
Geese

### Fish

Species according to  
Fishing Regulations.  
Examples:  
Sucker  
Lake Whitefish

For entries and any information regarding the ABA Game Awards Program contact:

Ryk Visscher  
1166 68 Street  
Edmonton, AB. T6k 3K4  
780- 462-6611 (Anytime)  
780-450-0386( Fax)  
ryk@ryk.ca (Email)

## BIG GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take any 3 of Alberta's 10 species (can be male or female)

Whitetail Deer  
Mule Deer

Elk  
Moose

Bighorn Sheep  
Antelope

Black Bear  
Cougar

Mountain Goat  
Bison

## MASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD (PERSONALIZED BUCKLE \$150 VALUE)

ABA bowhunter must take four of Alberta's 10 species and, with the exception of bears and cougars, all must be legal males (> 4" antlers, 4/5 curl, etc.). Two of the four must meet Pope & Young's minimum score. Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

## GRANDMASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD

ABA bowhunter must take six species of Pope & Young animals.

Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

## ANNUAL GAME AWARDS (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest of Alberta's species. Typical and Non-Typical species for Whitetail and Mule Deer(Dec. 1st thru Nov. 30th).

## TRADITIONAL AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

## LADIES AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

## YOUTH AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must less than 17 years old on day animal is taken.)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species







Deadline March 1st

# GAME AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

*(MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE, revised Mar 21, 2015)*

**BOWHUNTER (Please Print)**

**ANSWER THIS QUESTION IT'S IMPORTANT! Were you an ABA member at the time this animal was taken?**

**Circle YES    NO                    ABA Memb # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday (for youth entries 16 and under)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL**

**\*Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\*Pope & Young Score (V,NT?)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Taken with recurve/longbow (traditional Equipment)    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

- \* For Small Game indicate Category / Species e.g. Rodent / Gopher
- \*\* To be male, must have 4" horns or better
- \*\*\* Only official P&Y scorers can fill this in, and affidavit below; make sure scorer indicates Velvet and/or Non-Typical categories if applicable.

**Date of Kill** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location of Kill (WMU)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature & Phone # of Witness (Verification of Bow Kill)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Photo of Bowhunter with Big Game animal entries are requested but not mandatory**

**AFFIDAVIT OF FAIR CHASE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by my signature do declare that my animal was killed by me entirely by means of the bow and arrow, and in accordance with the "P&Y Rules of Fair Chase" (<http://www.pope-young.org/>) (no draw lock devices, no battery operated sights, etc) (lighted nocks (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE now allowed by ABA) and must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**AFFIDAVIT OF MEASURER**  
 This affidavit shall be completed only when applying for "Annual Big Game Awards" and the "Master Bowhunter" Pope & Young Animals.  
 I certify that I have measured the above trophy on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_  
 at (address) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 and that this score, is to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the official scoring system of the Pope & Young Club.  
**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature (official P&Y measurer):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail, Scan & Email (preferred) or Fax (last resort) all entries to Ryk Visscher at: 1166-68st, Edmonton, AB T6K 3K4  
 Email -- ryk@ryk.ca    Home Office 780-462-6611    Fax 780-450-0386  
 (DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 1 – NO EXTENSIONS, NO EXCEPTIONS!!)(Call to confirm)*



# ABA Affiliated Clubs

## Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Sandy Hrycyk  
(403) 283-3431  
Sandy.Hrycyk@gmail.com

## Bighorn Bowhunters Club

Leslie Cuthbertson, Airdrie  
(403) 948-4004  
BrentAlana@  
bighornbowhuntersandarchers.com

## Brazeau Bowbender Archery

Drayton Valley, Leonard Claffey  
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com  
bbb.epbrparksCouncil.org

## Calgary Archers Club

Calgary  
Vickilynne Schleppe  
vschleppe@shaw.ca

## Cochrane Archery Club

Greg Gerlitz, Cochrane  
(403) 280-5442  
greg.gerlitz@telus.net

## Lamont Fish and Game

Lamont, AB  
Murray Laronde  
(780)7202048  
kmlaronde@telus.net

## Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers

Three Hills  
Shawn Kopjar  
(403) 443-7315  
smkopjar@gmail.com

## Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club

Spruce Grove  
Robert Smith  
(780) 916-8065  
treasurer@parklandbowbenders.ca

## Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

Lethbridge  
Bruce Drewry  
(403) 320-1262  
bruced1@telusplanet.net

## Springbrook Archers

Springbrook  
Dwight Morency  
dwightarcher@gmail.com

## Strathmore Archery Club

Strathmore, Kevin Kemps  
(403) 934-6006  
kevcinkemps@shaw.ca

## Stavely Archery Lanes

Stavely

## Vermillion River Archers

Vermillion, Ron Dixon  
(780) 853-5046  
tpconst@telusplanet.net

## Woodland Archers

Whitcourt, Len Verbaas  
(780) 778-4587  
lenv@telus.net

# ABA Life Members

## HONORARY

Dave Coupland ('99)  
Mike Ukrainetz ('99)  
Fred Walker ('00)  
Court MacKid ('03)  
Ryk Visscher ('04)  
Lloyd Mutter ('04)  
Jack Kempf ('06)  
Duane Hicks ('08)

## LIFE MEMBERS

#1 Ryk Visscher ('98)  
#2 Tom Foss ('98)  
#3 Duane Hagman ('98)  
#4 Steve Hagman ('98)  
#5 Terry Hagman ('98)  
#6 Des Quinn ('98)  
#7 Allen Avery ('98)  
#8 Archie Nesbitt ('99)  
#9 Eric Ruahanen ('99)  
#10 Mike Ukrainetz ('99)  
#11 Adam Foss ('99)  
#12 Cameron Foss ('99)  
#13 Flint Simpson ('99)  
#14 David Chorkwa ('00)  
#15 Dale Collins ('00)  
#16 Darryl Kublik ('01)

#17 Reg Adair ('02)  
#18 Bill Gustafson ('02)  
#19 Gregg Sutley ('02)  
#20 Joe Winter ('02)  
#21 Bob Gruszecki ('04)  
#23 Dale Hislop ('04)

#25 Mark Demchuk ('06)  
#26 David Little ('06)  
#27 Cam Johnson ('07)  
#28 Andy Wiese ('07)  
#29 Gary Gillett ('07)  
#30 Ted Hansen ('07)  
#31 Vince Aiello ('07)  
#32 Leon Groves ('08)  
#33 Erin Wilde ('08)  
#34 Dale Johnson ('08)  
#35 Rob Kubicek ('08)  
#36 Robert Giles ('08)  
#37 Terry Brew ('08)  
#38 Kelly Semple ('09)  
#39 Dale Heinz ('09)  
#40 Tim Sailer ('09)  
#41 Bradley Wells ('09)  
#42 Jim Wilson ('09)  
#43 Lance Neilson ('09)  
#44 Ricardo Longoria ('09)  
#45 Julie Griffiths ('10)  
#46 Mark Barber ('10)

#47 Curtis Cheney ('10)  
#48 Sandy Hrycyk ('10)  
#49 Wayne Didyk ('10)  
#50 Luke Viravec ('10)  
#51 Darrin West ('10)  
#52 Wes Pietz ('10)  
#53 Dwayne Huggins ('10)  
#54 Mike Stuart ('10)  
#55 Ted Brown ('10)  
#56 Kurt Lund ('10)  
#57 Trevor Yurchak ('10)  
#58 Gunther Tondeleir ('10)  
#59 Jim Johnson ('11)  
#60 Joe Mungo ('11)  
#61 Hal Ziprick ('11)  
#62 Tom Kampjes ('11)  
#63 Daniel Wise ('11)  
#64 Dave Zimmermann ('11)  
#65 Jennifer Ukrainetz ('11)  
#66 David Schlottke ('12)  
#67 Leonard Verbaas ('12)  
#68 Geordie Lund ('12)  
#69 Joey Sr Busetto ('12)  
#70 Dave Van Belleghem ('12)  
#71 Steve Rogers ('12)  
#72 Robert Bennett ('12)  
#73 Mark Engstrom ('12)  
#74 Chester Dodgson ('13)  
#75 Derek Bruce ('13)

#76 Neil Johnson ('13)  
#77 Jesse Wrubleski ('13)  
#78 John Warwa ('13)  
#79 Mike Wood ('13)  
#80 Peter Demchuk ('13)  
#81 Mackenzie Mayer ('13)  
#82 Ryan Kohler ('13)  
#83 Cody Sutley ('13)  
#85 Jack Suggett ('13)  
#86 Dane Pecival ('13)  
#87 Dale Grimstead ('14)  
#88 Mike Cameron ('14)  
#89 Sean O'Neill ('14)  
#90 Jody Vegh ('14)  
#91 Alan Southwood ('14)  
#92 Jonathan Wrubleski ('14)  
#93 Eric Moland ('14)  
#94 Brandon Brown ('14)  
#95 Remington Dietzen ('15)  
#96 Chris Crispin ('15)  
#97 Carson Toy ('15)  
#98 Derald Stone ('15)  
#99 Bert Frelink ('15)  
#100 Dustin Wanke ('15)  
#101 Ryan Bartholow ('15)  
#102 Gord Nuttall ('15)  
#103 Darcy Barrett ('15)  
#104 Levy Groves ('15)  
#111 Corey Friesen ('14)





# ABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Yes! I want to protect bowhunting in Alberta.

Keep up the fight to PROTECT AND DEFEND BOWHUNTING



**THE VOICE FOR ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS SINCE 1956**

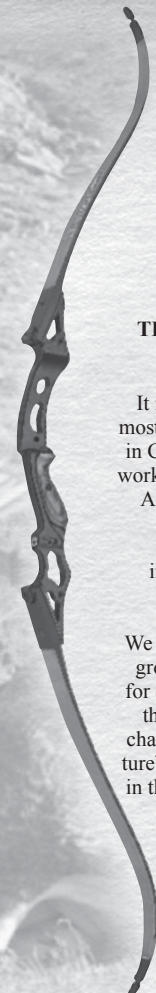
It is not by accident that Alberta has the most envied archery season of any province in Canada. It has taken years of dedicated work by members of the Alberta Bowhunter Association (ABA) to accomplish this.

The ABA continues to work in improving and retaining bowhunting opportunities.

We have also joined forces with other user groups in attempts to lobby government for changes to regulations and policy even though they many not be archery-only changes. We are focused on the "Big Picture" and are aware of the pressure we face in this fast paced, ever changing world we now live in.



Surname _____		First Name _____		
Mailing Address _____				
Town/City _____		Province _____	Postal Code _____	
Home Phone _____		Email Address _____		
Date of Birth _____				
<b>Membership Fees:</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Adult Membership	1 Year \$35.00	2 Years \$65.00	3 Years \$90.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Youth Membership	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$65.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership	\$70.00	\$130.00	\$190.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Membership	\$500.00		
<b>List Names &amp; Date of Birth Here</b>				
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	(dd/mm/yy)		
<b>Children must be under 18 on January 1st. Minimum 3 family members must join to qualify for a family rate.</b>		<b>Make cheques payable to:</b> Alberta Bowhunters Association <b>Mail to:</b> ABA Membership Director Box 89021 Mckenzie Towne Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3 <small>Information is subject to change without notice</small>		
<small>You can also register online on our secure website <a href="http://www.bowhunters.ca">www.bowhunters.ca</a></small>				



## Hunting For Tomorrow



The ABA is a participating member of the Hunting For Tomorrow (HFT) stakeholder meetings. HFT strives to increase hunter numbers and lobby to make changes to hunting regulations.

### Some part successes are

- Allow the use of camo clothing (1969)
- Allow the use of aluminum arrows (1970)
- Legalized bow fishing
- Black bear baiting
- Archery pre-season province wide (1976/77)
- Antelope archery season (1976/77)
- Bighorn sheep season. 410 and 408
- Antlerless deer tags in 212 and 248
- Antlerless elk tags in 212
- Archery pre-season for elk (not requiring a draw)
- Archery only areas around Edmonton and Calgary (1975)
- Lobby for Sunday hunting in much of the province ('08-11)
- Successful lobby to retain Parkland County as archery only (2009)
- Successful lobby to crossbows out of the archery success (2011)
- Revamping of cougar management (general tag) (2011)
- Successful lobby to stop further erosion of archery seasons by muzzleloaders (2011)
- Standardized start dates for archery - August 25th and September 1st (2011)
- Earlier start and later end dates to black bear seasons in Southern portions of province (2011)
- Allow non-trophy or trophy antelope to be taken in archery only season in all antelope zones (2011)
- Archery pre-season for elk in WMU 164, 166 and 208 (2011)
- Hunt WMU 164 Monday-Saturday (2011)
- Allow hunting of red squirrel on private land (2011)

## Benefits of Membership

- Participating member of the Alberta Outdoor Coalition
- Participating member of SRD Alberta Game Management Advisory Group
- Supporting member of North American Bowhunting Coalition
- Working with other sporting groups in defending outdoors activities
- Single Voice for Bowhunters in the Provincial Government
- Extensive Youth and New Bowhunter Programs
- Liability Insurance for clubs and members
- Promotion of International Bowhunter Educational Programs and the National Archery is Schools Program

## Annual Banquet/Convention

Come join fellow bowhunters at the annual banquet & convention to celebrate archery and bowhunting in Alberta. Lots of stories, lots of laughs! Guest speaker, awards, draws, raffles and game display.

## Newsletter

You will receive a quarterly newsletter which includes ABA executive reports, future events, hunting stories and much more.



## 3D Animal Target Shoots



The ABA has a "3D Provincial Championship" program, which sanctions three, 3D animal target shoots each year across the province.

## Game Harvest Awards



The ABA has an internationally acclaimed Game Awards system includes the Lloyd Mutter Grandmaster Award (framed personalized print) and the Fred Walker Youth Award, among others.

## This is our future!





# Pope & Young Measurer's in Alberta

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